REMARKS

Claims 1 to 14 are currently pending. Claims 1 to 14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1 and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,778,014 (Islam). Claims 2 to 13 and 14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Islam, alone or in view of United States Patent No. 5,557,442 (Huber).

The claims of the application have been amended to overcome the objections of the Examiner and to better define the invention in light of the prior art. In particular, the term "said loop mirror means" has been deleted from claim 1. Moreover, the term "output port" has been further defined as being "optically coupled to at least one of the reflection devices" in claims 1 and 12. Accordingly, reconsideration of the 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, rejections are hereby requested.

Claims 1 and 12 have also been amended to clarify that the "pump means" injects pump energy into the "loop of active fiber" at a point remote from the "first coupler", and that the reflection devices are for reflecting a portion of the amplified spontaneous emissions (ASE) back into the loop of active fiber, while directing another portion away from the loop of active fiber to an output port. Both of these features distinguish the present invention over the teachings of the Islam reference.

The Islam reference discloses a Raman amplifier, not a laser source as in the present invention, in which an optical signal to be amplified is fed into a silica fiber loop (Signal In), **not** a pump means as suggested by the Examiner. A pump means 26 is provided in the Islam device, but it is coupled to the four-port coupler, contrary to the present invention. Moreover, the reflection devices 50 and 52 are used to reflect all of the light at certain wavelengths back into the fiber loop; however, only a portion of the light is reflected back into the fiber loop in the present invention, while the remaining light is transmitted "away from the loop of active fiber" to an output port. The reflected devices 50 and 52 in the Islam device enable a signal generated from a pump source 26 at 1117 nm to undergo Stokes shifts from 1117 nm to 1175 nm to 1240 nm, which will provide

gain to the "Signal In" at 1300 nm. Accordingly, the coupler for passing the pump energy into the fiber loop of the Islam device must be able to pass a wide range of wavelengths, unlike the present invention whereby a wavelength selective coupler is sufficient (new claim 15), since only a single wavelength will be passed. Accordingly, reconsideration of the anticipation and obviousness rejections is hereby requested.

As such, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims remaining in the application are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable consideration would be appreciated.

Additional minor amendments have been made to the claims to place them in a more grammatically and idiomatically correct form.

Minor typographical errors have been corrected in the description.

Should any minor informalities need to be addressed, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No: 50-1465.

Please associate this application with Customer No: 24949.

Respectfully,

Doug MacLean

Doug MacLean
Regn No: 48,096

Customer No: 24949

Teitelbaum & MacLean
Registered Patent Agents Limited
1187 Bank Street, Suite 201
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada
K1S 3X7

Tel: (613) 523-3784 Ext. 200
Fax: (613) 523 6799
Email: doug.maclean@jdsu.com

DJM/ewg